

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #27  
October 2, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE.**

- For the week ending September 28, 2006, the World Health Organization added four human cases of highly pathogenic influenza A (H5N1) to their cumulative case count, bringing the total to 251 cases and 148 deaths (mortality rate of known cases = 59.0%). Three cases were from Indonesia and one case from Thailand. The United Nation's FAO notes that outbreaks of influenza A (H5N1) in birds and poultry continue to occur in Asia, including in Thailand, Indonesia, and Lao PDR.
- The WHO Pandemic Alert phase remains at "Phase 3: No or very limited human-to-human transmission."
- Also of note, USDA reported that low pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus was found in samples collected last month from wild ducks in Pennsylvania. This virus can occur in wild birds and typically causes only mild illness. Low pathogenic H5N1 is very different from the more severe highly pathogenic H5N1 circulating in parts of Asia, Europe and Africa. This subtype has been detected several times in wild birds in North America and poses no risk to human health.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- Planning continues for the Statewide PanFlu Exercise "Fowl Play" scheduled to be conducted on October 23-24. Initial Exercise Scenario setup was published on Sep 29.
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be sponsoring a "Preparing for Pandemic" Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit: <http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>
- Peninsula Health District Director and Planner presented and answered questions on "Preparing for Pandemic Influenza" to 40 leaders of Virginia's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) at their Fall meeting at the State EOC.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator will give a presentation on Continuity of Operations Planning in a Pandemic at the Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator is coordinating with VDEM, Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and Virginia Municipal League (VML) representatives to develop an agenda for a pandemic flu workshop on December 1 for local officials.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

### **VDH Activities – Regional Reports**

- **Eastern Region**
  - The Eastern Regional Team hosted a Pandemic Influenza Workshop for Health Systems and Hospitals. The workshop was attended by pandemic influenza planners from regional hospitals and health systems. The workshop provided hospitals the opportunity to discuss their pandemic plans and share best practices and issues of concern.
  - The Regional Medical Consultant presented Pandemic Influenza to the Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials.

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports**

- **Central Shenandoah**
  - Planner attended Harrisonburg/Rockingham Task Force PanFlu drill planning meeting.
  - Planner attended planning meeting at Augusta Medical Center to discuss the two October exercises in which Central Shenandoah HD is participating.
  - Planner gave an emergency preparedness and pandemic flu presentation to the Augusta/Staunton/Waynesboro Department of Social Services.
- **Central Virginia**
  - Quarterly staff development day included basic introduction to all staff about dispensing site drill for October.
  - Planner met with jurisdiction emergency managers for monthly meeting, specifically to address PanFlu response issues.
  - Planner met with representative from BWX technologies to provide information and guidance for their PanFlu plan
  - Health educator and Director met with jurisdiction PIOs to develop PanFlu communication plans. This group will meet monthly.
  - Director presented three community PanFlu talks.
  - Lynchburg College President has taken the lead on PanFlu planning with local colleges.
  - Dispensing site plans (for administration of seasonal flu vaccine) continue with weekly planning group meetings.
  - District continues to include PanFlu/ personal preparedness information in any outreach program, regardless of primary topic.
  - Director and planner gave a community presentation for the Bedford/Franklin County area around Smith Mountain Lake
  - Planner and Health educator will be providing PanFlu and all hazards personal preparedness information at Bedford Center Fest.
  - Staff has met to design dispensing site, assign tasks, prepare forms, develop an assessment tool, etc, for the Oct 28 vaccine dispensing drill in Lynchburg.
  - Staff continues to include personal preparedness information in all outreach programs.
- **Chesapeake**
  - Director gave a presentation to Human Services on pandemic influenza preparedness. Informational brochures on PanFlu were distributed.
  - A PanFlu TTX in the City EOC was conducted. Twelve Departments and the Assistant City Manager participated. In addition, fifteen members of the Pandemic

- Influenza Task Force were present as observers. The Health Department was represented by the District Director and Deputy Director. The Planner participated as one of the controllers. Planner and City emergency management personnel collaborated on MESL injects which were used to steer COOP thinking, telecommuting challenges, and the importance of cross training staff members.
- Planner gave presentation to the state-wide conference of the Virginia Local Human Services Officials. His talk offered a local perspective of pandemic influenza planning and centered on the recent City-wide EOC TTX. Following his presentation, he served on panel with three other speakers.
  - By request, provided general PanFlu brochures to City Central Fleet Garage and to Human Resources for distribution to their employees.
- **Chesterfield**
    - Set up an information booth at Chester YMCA.
    - Chesterfield PanFlu Advisory Committee met.
    - Part time Health Educator started work this week.
  - **Chickahominy**
    - Continued the coordination for the Goochland Schools hand cleanliness program.
    - Prepared initial work plan for new PanFlu Coordinator; set up her office and created a key information disk to assist in a rapid start-up phase. She will begin next Monday.
    - Participated in the VDH State Fair booth with a focus upon Pandemic Flu
    - Participated in the Hanover Health Fair distributing Public Health information including Personal Preparedness and PanFlu.
    - Send an e-mail to other Central Region Planners to suggest setting up a regional PanFlu Coordinator contact list to promote coordination, fast start and consistent messages.
  - **Cumberland Plateau**
    - Far SW Directors coordinated to finalize plans to stage mass dispensing exercise simultaneously in 13 county health departments on November 3rd. Letters of invitation completed for partners in community health and emergency response to attend and participate.
    - Planner and Environmental Health Manager presented information on pandemic influenza (PanFlu) exercise and mass dispensing exercise to environmental health staff.
    - Director and Planner facilitated and participated in the isolation and quarantine training for the District's town and county attorneys.
    - TSAO and NIMS (IS 700) training completed by all staff in CPHD
    - ICS training (IS 100/195/200) completed by all staff with leadership responsibilities.
  - **Fairfax**
    - Director began second round of pandemic influenza training updates for all Health Department employees, at multiple FCHD locations, detailing critical role of public health staff in pandemic response, specific roles staff may be asked to play, individual and family preparedness and agency critical services and COOP planning.
    - Director gave two media interviews regarding the county's Pandemic Flu Response Plan (1st story published Saturday, Sept 16 2d story to be published next week).
    - PanFlu planning meeting with Health Director, Deputy Health Directors, Director of Patient Care Services, Deputy Director of Patient Care Services, and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; topics included status of hiring process for 4 new personnel, billeting, organizational structure and project priorities for PanFlu Team

- Deputy Health Director gave a presentation at the Federation of Fairfax Civic Associations regarding pan flu preparedness and the role of community organizations in assisting neighbors in general and specifically the special needs individuals.
- Health department staffed a display at regional public safety fair to include MRC demonstration of proper hand-washing, distributed hand-washing print materials, etc.
- **Henrico**
  - Planner, Director, and Nurse Manager conducted a site walk-thru with county agency partners in preparation for the upcoming mass vaccination exercise on November 4th.
  - Epidemiologist, Planner, and Health Director completed the monthly Henrico Public Health Bytes newsletter and distributed it to community partners.
  - Planner met with Central Virginia Health Planning Agency (CVHPA) to discuss Medical Reserve Corps regional coordination.
  - Planner hosted emergency shelter training for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers
  - Planner and Health Director hosted Isolation & Quarantine training for County Attorneys
  - Planner and Administrator updated the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
  - Planner viewed Public Health Grand Rounds satellite broadcast on pandemic flu preparedness
  - Health Director participated in a pandemic flu panel hosted by Virginia Local Human Services Organizations (VALHSO).
- **Lenowisco**
  - Far SW Directors coordinated to finalize plans to stage mass dispensing exercise simultaneously in 13 county health departments on November 3rd. Letters of invitation completed for partners in community health and emergency response to attend and participate.
  - Epidemiologist and Planner facilitated and participated in the isolation and quarantine training for the District's town and county attorneys.
  - TSAO and NIMS (IS 700) training completed by all staff in Lenowisco.
  - ICS training (IS 100/195/200) completed by all staff with leadership responsibilities
  - Epidemiologist and Planner met with local hospital to assist in developing their hospital pandemic flu plan.
  - Planner met with town official to assist in adding a pan flu annex to existing town plan.
  - Planner and epidemiologist met with school officials to discuss utilizing school nurses in upcoming drill.
- **New River**
  - Working through New River Valley Regional Emergency Planning Coalition to identify home health care recipients/locations.
  - Coordinating with Department of Social Services, Red Cross, ADA-state and local levels for outreach to special need population with emergency preparedness planning/response/recovery.
  - Providing assistance to local hospitals in preparation for Fowl Play.
  - Coordinating activities for drive through flu dispensing operation to be conducted in Radford City on Sept. 20.
- **Norfolk**
  - The health educator manned a booth, distributing approximately a hundred packets of informational materials on pandemic influenza and answering questions, at the Norfolk Mayor's Community Leadership Picnic.

- Director participated in the Eastern Regional Hospital Pandemic Influenza workshop. Regional coordination and concerns for standards of care were discussed.
- The district is planning for the exercise events as part of the Fowl Play exercise during the week of October 23, 2006.
- **Peninsula**
  - Director and Planner presented and answered questions on “Preparing for Pandemic Influenza” to 40 leaders of Virginia’s Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) at their Fall meeting at the Virginia EOC.
  - Planner presented on VDH and local planning for pandemic influenza to preparedness and response staff of the Army Installation Management Command, Northeast Region, at Fort Monroe.
  - The district had training for staff and MRC volunteers in preparation for the planned influenza vaccine mass clinics in October.
- **Rappahannock**
  - RAHD has entered a new partnership with Mary Washington Hospital (MWH) focusing on pandemic influenza public preparedness. MWH is establishing and funding half this full-time health educator position to be supervised by the RAHD Emergency Planner. The District interviewed candidates for this new Health Educator position. Expected start date is October 1st.
  - Online completion of IS-700 for staff continues.
  - Terrorism and Security Awareness course for staff being taught at each of the five health departments in the District. Pandemic flu preparedness is included in the program.
  - A three-hour Public Information overview was taught for King George County’s senior staff. Pandemic flu preparedness materials were distributed to them.
  - Trained members of Stafford County’s ERCAT teams.
  - Infection control training (including pandemic flu) conducted with area long-term care facility.
  - Pandemic Flu Working Group: continuing to coordinate the various sub-committees listed below.
    - Mary Washington Hospital Surge Committee: the hospital is preparing for a PanFlu surge exercise, with assistance from the District. Exercise is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>.
    - PanFlu Social Services Sub-committee: this group is working on internal preparedness of employees.
    - PanFlu Public Information Officers: the group is developing public education materials for distribution via the five represented jurisdictions and other venues.
    - PanFlu Law Enforcement Sub-committee: some members plan to attend the Isolation and Quarantine Polycom.
    - PanFlu Special Needs Sub-committee: The District is serving as a coordinating body, working to develop a special needs conference, which is shaping up well. The disability Resource Center, VDH central office, and VDEM as well as local emergency managers plan to address special needs in both pandemic and non-pandemic events. The conference, which is scheduled for early in March, 2007, will kick off further area interest in special needs planning and, it is hoped, lead to the development of a regional special needs shelter.

- RAHD internal PanFlu meeting: staff now finalizing the 10/25 drive through seasonal flu vaccination process.
- VDEM Region 2 PanFlu/COOP Tabletop planning: scheduled for the New Year, the group is insuring that the topics selected address the needs of the target audience.
- Rappahannock Medical Reserve Corps: is developing an exercise response team that will work with the District's staff on the October 25th seasonal flu vaccination program.
- Fredericksburg Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team is also assisting with traffic control at the October 25th program.
- RAHD PanFlu Tabletop held for all District staff and EOC representatives.
- Planning ongoing for October 25th drive through exercise.
- **Southside**
  - Met with Brunswick County LEPC & EOC Coordinator re: mass flu exercise.
  - Working on brochure for all parents in three school systems about Infectious disease, hand washing and cough etiquette.
  - Date selected for PanFlu presentation to Brunswick County school nurses and teachers.
  - Planner presented Personal and family readiness to staff with time allotted to develop communication plan.
  - Planner presented information on the mass Flu Clinic.
  - Hospital planner presented information on the hospital's PanFlu exercise and asked for our participation.
  - Continue work on Health Educator position with Central HR.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville Area)**
  - District held a pandemic flu staff day where all staff heard:
    - Pandemic influenza overview by health director
    - Educational materials developed sharing by pan flu health educator
    - Pandemic flu community work group briefing/update by planner
    - Pandemic flu plan discussion by planner
    - Pandemic flu exercise "Fowl Play" and dispensing drill overview by planner
    - Dead bird protocol review by EH manager
    - Communicable disease updates by epidemiologist, TB nurse, immunization nurse, ADAP staff, HIV/STD nurse
  - Planner participated in PanFlu preparedness meeting with Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge department heads.
  - Planner met with local emergency management coordinator to develop local injects for October exercise.
  - Planner hosted I/Q training program for city/county attorneys
  - Planner presented October exercise update to Greene County Emergency Services committee
  - Health educators hosted public health grand rounds presentation on Pandemic flu preparedness "What Every Community Should Know".
- **Three Rivers (Northern Neck)**
  - Director met with the Westpoint School District Superintendent and reviewed their Pandemic flu plan, this will be presented at the state Superintendents' meeting in October.
  - Director did a pandemic flu talk to the Kiwanis group in Westpoint.